

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00  
/072 W

-----095188 130054Z /75

R 120749Z APR 78  
FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1569  
USCINCEUR  
USAREUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FRANKFURT 2997

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, MARR, GW  
SUBJECT: AWACS AND THE SAARLAND

1. MOD APEL'S NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD HAVING AWACS (SHOULD IT MATERIALIZE) IN THE SAARLAND HAS EVOKED EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET FROM ALL THREE POLITICAL PARTIES IN THAT STATE. THE MOD'S RESERVATIONS, VOICED AT THE CONCLUSION OF LAST WEEK'S BUNDESWEHR COMMANDERS CONFERENCE IN SAARBRUECKEN, ARE SAID TO RESULT FROM AN ESTIMATE THAT BASING AWACS IN THE SAARLAND WOULD COST DM 600 TO 800 MILLION MORE THAN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS SUCH AS GIELENKIRCHEN NEAR AACHEN.

2. SAARLAND MINISTER PRESIDENT ROEDER (CDU) EXPRESSED HIS REGRET AT APEL'S STATEMENT AND CLAIMED THAT 3,000 POTENTIAL JOBS WOULD BE LOST IN THE SAAR IF AWACS IS BASED ELSEWHERE. HE HAS INDICATED HIS INTENT TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER AND IS SUPPORTED BY DEPUTY MINISTER PRESIDENT AND ECONOMICS MINISTER WERNER KLUMPP (FDP) AS WELL AS BY THE SAAR'S SPD LEADERSHIP CONSISTING OF SAARBRUECKEN'S MAYOR OSKAR LAFONTAINE AND LANDTAG SPD  
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FRACTION LEADER FRIEDEL LAEPLLE. ROEDER, LUMPP AND LAEPPLE HAVE ALL CLAIMED THAT APEL'S NEGATIVE VIEW ON SAARLAND BASING CONTRAVENES ASSURANCES BY FORMER MOD GEORG LEBER THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT THE SAAR AS THE BASE FOR AWACS SHOULD IT MATERIALIZE.

3. WHILE POSSIBLE SAARLAND BASING OF AWACS ALSO MEETS

WITH SOME LOCAL OPPOSITION FROM ENVIRONMENTALISTS, THERE  
IS NO DOUBT THAT IT WOULD PROVIDE A BADLY NEEDED SHOT  
IN THE ARM TO THE AREA'S DEPRESSED ECONOMY WHICH ACCOUNTS  
FOR THW WIDE SUPPORT THE POTENTIAL PROJECT HAS RECEIVED  
FROM ALL THREE PARTIES AS WELL AS THE LOCAL POLITICS  
BEING PLAYED WITH THE ISSUE.LEHMANN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AWACS, BURDENSARING, SAARLAND, WARNING SYSTEMS, COST ESTIMATES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978FRANKF02997  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, MARR, GE  
**To:** BONN  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014